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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 MARTA HALON DROZD, et al.,

4 Plaintiffs,

5 v.

17 CV 922 (RMB)

6 340 WEST 46TH STREET CORP.,  
7 d/b/a LE RIVAGE, et al.,

8 Defendants.

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9 New York, N.Y.

10 May 9, 2017

9:25 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. RICHARD M. BERMAN,

13 District Judge

14 APPEARANCES

15 PECHMAN LAW GROUP PLLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

16 BY: LAURA GERACE RODRIGUEZ  
GREGORY SLOTNICK

17 KLEIN ZELMAN ROTHERMEL JACOBS & SCHERR LLP  
Attorneys for Defendants

18 BY: JANE JACOBS  
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(Case called)

THE COURT: I reviewed, and shortened up a little bit, your discovery period. Is this a case, you're going to settle, do you think?

MS. RODRIGUEZ: Your Honor, we hope to be able to reach a point where we can settle it. At this point, we haven't engaged in any settlement negotiations yet. This is a case where there are wage-and-hour claims but also discrimination claims and a lot of emotion involved on the plaintiffs' side. So, we feel the need to go through some discovery and have some depositions because that's something that our clients have requested, and we think will be necessary, to really get to all the details of the case.

Perhaps once we do that, we'll be able to discuss settlement, and that's something we're always open to, but at this point, the discussions haven't begun.

THE COURT: Okay.

I'm going to also include a referral to the magistrate judge for discovery and settlement possibilities, whatever.

MS. JACOBS: If I may, your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes.

MS. JACOBS: Understanding that often plaintiffs need to be heard and give a deposition before they're amenable to settlement, this is a case with certain situations where we think that an early attempt at mediation might be advantageous.

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1 So, I don't know if there is a time frame in your referral, but  
2 if there is, we would hope for an earlier rather than later  
3 one.

4 THE COURT: Early is fine. We have to figure out who  
5 the magistrate judge is.

6 All right. It's Judge Parker. You should call her  
7 today or tomorrow, and I will include early settlement talks in  
8 here. Get on her calendar. She's very good and maybe can help  
9 you in the short run save you some money in discovery,  
10 et cetera.

11 MS. JACOBS: Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MS. JACOBS: Okay.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Great. Nice to see you.

16 MR. SLOTNICK: Thank you, your Honor.

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